



## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL – Dr. Mathew Nelson**



February is “I Love to Read Month”, and we had a lot of fun officially kicking it off with a gathering in the auditorium to highlight all of the fun events we have planned. Throughout the month, Mrs. Uttke will continue in her tradition making the noises to signify it is time for “Stop, Drop, and Read”, which is a favorite of the students. There is a good chance that your son or daughter will “get caught reading”, which is a great thing! Other planned “I Love to Read” month activities include Book Bingo, Readers Theater, Town Square Reading, having Mystery Readers on the announcements, a movie in the auditorium, a character parade, and our Read-a-thon fundraiser. Information was sent home about our annual Read-a-thon fundraising event. In our Read-a-thon each student will have a reading goal of total minutes read outside of school in the month and by acquiring pledges/donations, the students are making a promise to do their best to reach their reading goal for the month. We are excited to kick off our annual Read-a-thon, which is our **only school-led fundraiser** for the year.

The funds raised in this fundraiser will be used towards offsetting fees and field trips, as well as the purchase of addition items for student use. In the past we have purchased kid-friendly furniture in our Commons, extra technology, educational Virtual Reality devices, books, and other fun items for student use. The main advantages of a fundraiser like the Read-a-thon are that the focus is on literacy and **100% of the donations benefits the students of Discovery Elementary**. Thank you in advance for your support of Discovery and our Read-a-thon.

To culminate our “I Love to Read Month” activities, on Friday, **February 28<sup>th</sup>** all Discovery students and staff will be invited to watch the “G” rated movie, **Horton Hears a Who** in in the auditorium on the big screen! I do realize that it sure seems hypocritical of me to share that we are going to watch a movie together at school when in this month’s newsletter we shared a resource about limiting screen time. I shared the resource though as a general reminder and moderation is key with anything. Back to the “I Love to Read Month” culminating festivities...after the movie, we will have our school wide book character parade in which the students will parade around Discovery dressed as their favorite book character. (Additional information will be sent explaining the Character Parade.) Finally, students and staff will assemble in the gymnasium for a Town Gathering. It is always such a great, fun day for our students to conclude “I Love to Read Month”. The schedule for February 28<sup>th</sup> is below:

11:50-1:20	<u>Horton Hears a Who</u> in Discovery Auditorium
1:30-1:45	Book Character Parade – Parents are welcome!
1:45-2:05	Town Gathering in gym

# **I Love to Read**



# TECH OVERLOAD

**FACT:** The average American child spends **50+ HOURS** a week in front of a screen. That's more than **A FULL TIME JOB!**



Recommended daily screen time for children and teens



Average screen time per day  
(TV, video games, tablets, computers, cell phones...etc)



% of children addicted to mobile devices

## The Downside of Screen Time

- Depression
- Fatigue
- Poor Academic Performance
- Anxiety
- Health Problems
- Impaired Self-Control
- Vision Problems,
- Impaired Social Skills
- Obesity
- Aggressive Tendencies
- Poor Digital Footprints
- Developing Unhealthy Relationships

ASK YOUR CHILD:

"What have you always wanted to learn or try?"

"What are you missing out on when you spend so much time on your device?"

## Unplugging Tips!

- Encourage tech-free hobbies and activities.
- Practice what you preach! Children follow by example.
- Create no-tech zones in your home.
- Don't allow devices at family meals.
- Set screen time schedules.

## A Resource for Parents

**Want to limit your child's device use?** OurPact is a free solution for parents to block internet and apps on all children's iOS and Android devices. Manage screen time by blocking children's devices at-a-touch or through automated schedules. Through our Web App or iOS app, limit device use with a bedtime schedule or set a manual block during a family meal.



This year, on February 20<sup>th</sup>, our entire school will participate in the Global Day of Play! The purpose of "Day of Play" is to encourage children to PLAY, HAVE FUN, and to be CREATIVE. For the entire morning of February 20<sup>th</sup>, the students will spend time organizing their own (not adult guided) "technology free" play activities, inviting others to join them, being problem solvers, and compromising! To be honest, I believe that in general children (including my own) don't spend enough time engaging in technology-free play enough, so this was a great opportunity for us to help encourage creative play. Furthermore; we believe that this uninterrupted playtime is very important for them emotionally, socially, and academically!



### **Sign up for Parent/Teacher Conference**

Conference time is right around the corner at Discovery Elementary. We are pleased to offer conference sign up online using Google Calendar. Our winter conference dates are February 27, March 5 and March 12. Conferences are an important parent/school relationship. They serve to keep you informed, and also to communicate to your child that they have many caring adults in their life. Your child's teacher will send you a link to sign up for a conference time in the upcoming week. Other schools have successfully utilized it for conference sign up and we hope we find it easy to use as well. Looking forward to seeing you at conferences.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FFN**

Discovery's Family Fun Night is rapidly approaching. It includes a carnival and silent auction. The gym, cafeteria, hallways, and music room are filled with games, activities, food, fun and prizes for all ages!

**We need your help!** Please consider helping with The Family Fun Night Carnival. It is a great opportunity to meet other Discovery parents and students, and it is a easy way to support our school. There are so many positions that involve different levels of involvement and commitment. We need many hands to help make this event a success. Sign up information available at this website.

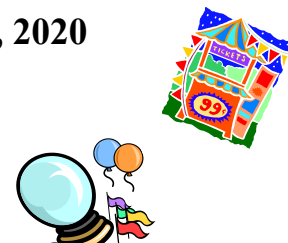
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4DA9AF2AA1FB6-discovery> or you can call the Discovery Office 763-682-8400 to sign up. Mark your calendars today.

### **Family Fun Night 5:00-7:30 p.m. Friday, March 6, 2020**

Shift times:

- 4:45-6:30 running games, concession sales, bingo, ticket sales
- 6:15-7:30 running games, concession sales, bingo, ticket sales
- 7:30-9:00 clean up goes fast with many hands

- Family Fun Night Silent Auction Items-Classroom gift baskets
- Bingo Prizes needed-any new items that can be used for bingo prizes for children, adults, pets!
- Pre-sale tickets will take place before school and during the day all week at the Discovery Office (all activities will take a ticket-no money at the game stands) tickets will be sold at the door as well.
- Tickets .50 each/games 1-6 tickets for games
- What's the Scoop will be available for cash purchase
- Bring with your family and friends and have a great time!







## Kindergarten Registration Night is Coming!

Discovery's Kindergarten Registration Night for 2020-21 school year is fast approaching on Monday, March 2nd from 6:30-7:30. More information will be mailed out to all of the new kindergarten families. Mark your calendars for you and your kindergarten child to attend!

**YEAH!**



### Report Cards available on Parent Portal Monday, February 3rd

Report cards will be available on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal for your child(ren). You needed to sign up on the Parent Portal in order to view your child report card. If you have secondary students you already have access to the portal information.

The link to the portal can be found here:

<https://campus.bhmschools.org/campus/portal/buffalo.jsp>

If you have any questions or would prefer to receive a paper copy of your child's report card please contact Sharon Uttke in the Discovery office at 682-8400 or [suttke@bhmschools.org](mailto:suttke@bhmschools.org)

Are you missing a sweater, jacket, mitts, hat or snow pants? Our bins are overflowing with items that have been left behind. Please stop in and check out the lost and found bin. There are many nice items. We will be donating any left over items to local charities over spring break.



*Happy Valentine's Day*

### Look What's Happening at DES:

#### February Community "C"-CHEERFUL

Monday & Thursday Gr. 3-5 Choir  
Tuesday & Thursday Student Announcements  
Tuesday & Wednesday Town Square  
Wednesday & Friday 5th Grade Lunch room helpers

**Monday, Feb. 3** I Love to Read Kick-Off (Please check your child's backpack for the "I Love to Read" a Thon information that went home. A great reading adventure for the month of February!

**Tuesday, Feb. 4** Stop-Drop and Read begins

**Tuesday, Feb. 4** Kindergarten Lottery

**Monday, Feb. 17** NO School-Presidents' Day

**Thursday, Feb. 20** National Day of Play

**Thursday, Feb. 27** DES Conferences

**Friday, Feb. 28** I Love to Read conclusion, we will celebrate with a Character Parade, BHS students will visit classrooms to read to students, movie in the auditorium along with classroom activities.

## *Community C for the Month of January-COLLABORATE*



*DES honors the Community C students for January. The Community C for the month was  
COLLABORATE*

Front Row: Brant Erhard, Callan Polascheck, Mason Harth, Chloe Schmid, Gavin Boehlke and Greta Volk  
Back Row: Adlee Elsenpeter, Arianna Sargent, Madison Schindele, Colin Megaw and Kale Sarvie

*January 27-31, 2020 was Paraprofessional Recognition Week  
We are fortunate here at Discovery Elementary School to have such dedicated ESP's  
Thank you for all you do for the students.*

*ESP's at Discovery are: Callie Aspen, Sheila Dudley, Shelley Fadden, Ellen Halvorsen,  
Julie Hemze, Heidi Lucas and Cheri Knop*



Greetings from the health office!

Welcome to February! We always feel like we are over the hump of winter once January is behind us!

We want to make you aware that we are seeing an increase in absences due to illness throughout the district. Most commonly seen are strep throat, stomach illness, influenza-like illness and Flu (both A and B). Please remember to encourage your child to wash their hands (preferably with soap and water), cover their cough, eat well and get plenty of rest. **Also, please remember to call the attendance line for every day your child is going to be absent.** This helps us make sure your child's absence is coded correctly, but more importantly, it helps us assure your child is safe and accounted for. Students are welcome to **return to school 24 hours after their last symptom (fever, vomiting, diarrhea), with no fever reducing medications.** We appreciate your cooperation.

### **Parents of Preschoolers and Kindergartners**

If you have a child who is 3 ½ to four years old or one who is entering kindergarten in September and have not been contacted for Early Childhood Screening, please call Cheri at 763-682-8408. Early Childhood Screening is an early intervention program targeted for children ages 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 years old. It is a mandated program for all children entering kindergarten in the public school however it is intended to be administered at the 3 ½ - 4 years of age.

**Parents of Kindergarten Students Starting '20-'21 school year:** If you have a child beginning kindergarten in September, please consider taking care of their immunization needs now. It is the law that all students must submit an updated immunization status before starting kindergarten. Please submit one of the following: immunization record, notarized non-medical exemption form or physician signed medical exemption form.

Required shots for vaccinated students include:

**5 DTP**

**4 Polio (IPV or OVP)**

**3 Hepatitis B (HBV - not to be confused with Hib, which is the Haemophilus Influenza)**

**2 MMR (Measles, Mumps & Rubella)**

**2 Varicella (Chicken Pox)** – If your child has had the chicken pox illness, the school will need a statement from your health care provider indicating one of the following statements:

- The signature of a provider along with the date of the child's varicella illness
- The signature of a provider along with a statement that the parent's or legal guardian's description of the child's varicella disease history is indicative of past varicella infection, or
- The signature of a provider or a representative of a public clinic along with laboratory evidence of the child's varicella immunity.

If you have questions, please contact Heidi Gallart, RN, at [hgallart@bhmschools.org](mailto:hgallart@bhmschools.org) or 763-682-8514.